

WIND ENERGY RESOURCE ZONE BOARD

December 12, 2008
Hearing Room A
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Approved Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Gary Kitts, Michigan Public Service Commission, at 12:30 p.m. The Board Members introduced themselves. All members were present except that Rodger Kershner was represented by his alternate, Joe DeVito.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

III. Organization

Board members may appoint an alternate to participate at the board meetings. To do so, please write to the Executive Secretary prior to the meeting that the alternative will attend.

Gary Kitts explained to the Board that the MPSC will make MPSC facilities available to the Board for their use if they wish. Also, the MPSC staff will be available to support the Board by providing technical and administrative assistance as requested. The Board will operate independently of the Commission. The products will be the products of the Board. The Board accepted the offer of MPSC secretarial support to the Board. The MPSC contact for the Board is Board Member, Julie Baldwin.

Gary Kitts stated that the MPSC would be willing to create a webpage for the Board. Trevor Lauer suggested the Board support this. The Board agreed. Gary Kitts offered to the Board the use of the MPSC physical mail address and the Board accepted this as well.

The group is subject to the Open Meetings Act. Accordingly, the Board needs to publish a list of meeting dates by January 15, 2009. The Board is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Board would like the MPSC Executive Secretary's office to support FOIA functions on behalf of the Board, as Gary offered.

IV. Election of Officers

Nominated for Chair is David Walters.

Nominated for Vice Chair is Mary Templeton.

Nominated for Secretary is Julie Baldwin. The motion was made to accept these nominations. The motion was seconded by John Miceli. The motion to approve the officers was passed.

V. Organization

The next Board meeting will be January 5, 2009 at 9:00 am. The Board will meet for two hours. It was agreed the Board will meet every other Monday. Gary Kitts offered the use of Hearing Room D, Lower Level of the Michigan Public Service Commission, for the next meeting. The Board chose to meet at the MPSC for the January 5, 2009 meeting. Due to the items proposed January 5, 2009 agenda, the meeting time was extended to 3 hours. The Chair said he liked the idea of moving at least some of the future meetings around the state to different places. The subsequent meeting date will be January 19th at 9:00 am for two hours. A location will be determined for the January 19 meeting. The Board will look into meeting at the MPPA building.

Julie Baldwin agreed to send an email to the Board Members with the dates of the remaining meetings. Participation by conference calls was supported by the Board. The MPSC has an AT&T conference account that can be used by the Board.

A request was made to contact MSU inviting them to a future Board meeting. Also, it would be helpful to have ITC make a presentation at on how transmission planning works. The Board is also very interested in inviting MISO to talk about how the queue process works. They would like to have AWS Truewind present at a meeting too.

A presentation was made by Thomas Stanton, MPSC, on wind generation. Tom Stanton suggested the Board call DOE right away to find out how we can get 100 meter tower wind data. We can also ask DOE if we can get some extra technical support.

The Board held discussion about securing a consultant. The Chair suggested they would want a consultant who can work with the Board immediately and who has expertise in writing these kinds of reports. Gary Kitts advised that it could take the state six weeks to get approval for the Board to obtain funds to be used to hire a consultant.

A motion was made and passed by the board for the Chair to work with Julie Baldwin and Gary Kitts to get these questions answered. Then, the Chair will write a letter to the Commission to make this request. The Chair will also contact MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Corporation).

Trevor Lauer said the Board should look at what data is already available. The Chair agreed that they should glean what they can from what has already been done and is available publicly. Mary Templeton also agreed that it would be helpful to validate information that is already out there. Joe DeVito said some of the information is proprietary information, so we may need to start by asking permission for others to share their information with us. Thomas Stanton said that there are also ways to obtain some reports done by other states.

The Board discussed the agenda for the January 5th meeting. Assigning Board members to lead specific areas of work will be on the agenda for the next meeting. The Chair will develop an agenda for the next meeting.

VI. Public Comment

- a. Some states have already gone through similar processes. It was suggested that they be contacted to see if they have an outline for doing this kind of work.
- b. Townships have master plans and GIS information. Work with county planning employees. They can tell you who you need to talk to about putting wind into a certain area.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

sma